

Billet Parents

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

For court use only
Information Number

Victim's Name Paul Jefferson Police Service Remf
Offence Date April 6 2018 Offence Location Highway 35 and 335 Incident/File Number 18-446743

This form may be used to provide a description of the physical or emotional harm, property damage or economic loss suffered by you as the result of the commission of an offence, as well as a description of the impact of the offence on you. You may attach additional pages if you need more space.

Your statement must not include:

- any statement about the offence or the offender that is not relevant to the harm or loss you suffered;
- any unproven allegations;
- any comments about any offence for which the offender was not convicted;
- any complaint about any individual, other than the offender, who was involved in the investigation or prosecution of the offence; or
- except with the court's approval, an opinion or recommendation about the sentence.

You may present a detailed account of the impact the offence has had on your life. The following sections are examples of information you may wish to include in your statement. You are not required to include all of this information.

Emotional impact

Describe how the offence has affected you emotionally. For example, think of:

- your lifestyle and activities;
- your relationships with others such as your spouse, family and friends;
- your ability to work, attend school or study; and
- your feelings, emotions and reactions as they relate to the offence.

I get the "look" every time I tell someone that Parker Tobin and Tyler Smith were our hockey billets for five months: the puzzled expression, the raised eyebrow... you know what I mean? People don't understand the relationships that develop between billet parents and the hockey players that stay with them. These young men aren't just boarders in our home, consumers of food and users of wifi connections. We talk about many things beyond hockey; about life and love, faith and character, about relationships within the team or just about the funny things that happened to us that day. To say that these young men become like our own children is simplistic, but it is the best description of the relationship that develops between billet parents and their adopted hockey "sons". With Parker and I, this happened much faster and deeper than has happened with any other billet. After our first trip to Tim Horton's resulted in an awkward (for him) and hilarious (for me) encounter with a fan, we enjoyed teasing and challenging each other. The evening that he stopped video gaming with his friends to play pool with

Physical impact

Describe how the offence has affected you physically. For example, think of:

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- treatment, physiotherapy or medication you have been prescribed;
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- any permanent or long-term disability.

me, I realized that our relationship was special. On another evening, after I had expounded some trivial information on a topic that only he and I cared about, I apologized for being a "nerd". Parker said "that's okay, you are just being Paul". Wow, this young man accepted me for the trivia geek that I am. That's when I knew that he and I would be close for the rest of our lives. It never crossed my mind that our time would be so short. I think that this is why the intensity of my grief surprises everyone. Everyone thinks that I'm "just a billet Dad" who had Parker and Tyler in our home for just five months. But Nancy and I had a special and close relationship with these two young men. Parker's passing was sudden and tragic with the extra twist that we believed for two days that he had survived the accident. He was so young. He was smart and funny and athletic and competitive. I think about him every day.

Economic impact

Describe how the offence has affected you financially. For example, think of:

- the value of any property that was lost or damaged and the cost of repairs or replacement;
- any financial loss due to missed time from work;
- the cost of any medical expenses, therapy or counselling; and
- any costs or losses that are not covered by insurance.

Please note that this is not an application for compensation or restitution.

And Darcy Haugan was my friend. Because Nancy and I helped Pastor Sean with the Bronco chapels, we knew all the people on the bus, with the exception of Adam Herold who was called up for the playoffs and Glen Doerksen the bus driver. So the loss from the Bronco tragedy was more profound than I can express to you: so many young people gone too soon and so suddenly.

Fears for security

Describe any fears you have for your security or that of your family and friends. For example, think of:

- concerns with respect to contact with the offender; and
- concerns with respect to contact between the offender and members of your family or close friends.

I have been comforted in my grief by my faith. Nothing happens outside of God's control so I believe that even this tragedy is part of His plan, even though I can't see the plan and I don't understand it. My faith also calls me to forgive. Mr. Sidhu made that step easier for me on the day that he admitted that his mistake caused the accident. I forgive Mr. Sidhu for his actions that caused so much grief. In sentencing him, I ask the court to consider that his life should not be ruined forever by his mistake. That would make him the 30th victim of this tragedy.

Drawing, poem or letter

You may use this space to draw a picture or write a poem or letter if it will help you express the impact that the offence has had on you.

1 How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?
2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?
3 Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,
4 and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall.
5 But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.
6 I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me.

Psalm 13

☐ I would like to present my statement in court.

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this statement is true.

Dated this 19 day of January 2019, at Humboldt, Saskatchewan

Signature of declarant

Paul D. Jefferson

If you completed this statement on behalf of the victim, please indicate the reasons why you did so and the nature of your relationship to the victim

Dated this _____ day of _____ 20____, at _____

Signature of declarant _____

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

For court use only
Information Number

Victim's Name Rene Cannon Police Service _____
Offence Date 06-Apr-18 Offence Location Bronco Collision Incident/File Number 2018-446743

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You may present a detailed account of the impact the offence has had on your life. The following sections are examples of information you may wish to include in your statement. You are not required to include all of this information.

Emotional impact

Describe how the offence has affected you emotionally. For example, think of:

- your lifestyle and activities;
- your relationships with others such as your spouse, family and friends;
- your ability to work, attend school or study; and
- your feelings, emotions and reactions as they relate to the offence.

Please see the attached letter.

Physical impact

Describe how the offence has affected you physically. For example, think of:

- ongoing physical pain, discomfort, illness, scarring, disfigurement or physical limitations;
- hospitalization or surgery you have had because of the offence;
- treatment, physiotherapy or medication you have been prescribed;
- the need for any further treatment or the expectation that you will receive further treatment; and
- any permanent or long-term disability.

Please see the attached letter.

Economic impact

Describe how the offence has affected you financially. For example, think of:

- the value of any property that was lost or damaged and the cost of repairs or replacement;
- any financial loss due to missed time from work;
- the cost of any medical expenses, therapy or counselling; and
- any costs or losses that are not covered by insurance.

Please note that this is not an application for compensation or restitution.

N/A

Fears for security

Describe any fears you have for your security or that of your family and friends. For example, think of:

- concerns with respect to contact with the offender; and
- concerns with respect to contact between the offender and members of your family or close friends.

N/A

Drawing, poem or letter

You may use this space to draw a picture or write a poem or letter if it will help you express the impact that the offence has had on you.

Letter is attached.

☒ I would like to present my statement in court.

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this statement is true.

Dated this 15 day of January, 2019, at Humboldt, Saskatchewan

Signature of declarant

Rene Cannon

If you completed this statement on behalf of the victim, please indicate the reasons why you did so and the nature of your relationship to the victim

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____, at _____

Signature of declarant _____

The horrific crash on April 6th, 2018 involving the Humboldt Broncos' bus has created a fissure in my family's life, and we are different people because of one person's decision that day. Friday, April 6th was a busy day. My thirteen-year-old daughter, Abbie, and I shouted goodbye and good luck to the three Humboldt Broncos' players we were fortunate to call members of our family as we headed to Saskatoon to a volleyball tournament. Throughout our afternoon, we texted and teased Adam Herold, Logan Hunter, and Xavier LaBelle as we often did while they were riding the bus. Shortly after 5:20, when we had stopped texting to let the boys focus on the game ahead, we received a phone call and entered a nightmare.

After hearing from a parent that 'someone said the bus was in an accident', I frantically called each of our billet sons and others I knew on the bus. I began contacting family members and friends, and just after 5:35, my daughter heard the person I was on the phone with say 'the bus collided with a semi' and she began sobbing and hyperventilating.

For the next few hours, I made calls that were among the hardest of my life, all while my daughter Abbie listened and sobbed. I called my husband and we tried to decide if he should leave Humboldt so that he and our ten-year-old daughter, Tessa, could be with us in Saskatoon. I was in touch with all three of our boys' families; LaBelles and Herolds knew nothing about their sons' and promised to call the moment they had any news. I was the first person to tell Shauna Nordstrom of the collision involving the bus. Her voice, her words "Please, not my beautiful boy, Oh God, no" still ring in my ears when I think of that night.

Abbie and I went to LaBelle's home in Saskatoon to wait as information came in about the crash and the people on the bus. The hours that followed were incomprehensible. I will not go through all of what I remember, but I will say that I have never felt so much helplessness, so much fear, and so much grief. There are three moments, along with my call to Shauna, that still haunt me. I called Logan's dad, Lawrence Hunter to give him information about the number of confirmed deaths, fourteen at that time. His grief and his yelling that number, fourteen, repeatedly will stay with me. Around midnight, I answered a call from an unknown number; I sobbed as an RCMP officer told me that Raelene and Russ Herold had asked that he call to tell me our billet son Adam had not survived. At 3:00 am, Abbie and I stood in the basement at LaBelle's, and listened as Paul gave family and friends the devastating information he had about Xavier. I felt ineffective as a parent and as a support to the boys' parents. I could not comprehend the magnitude of this disaster, and I had no idea how my husband and I would support our children through their grief.

The days and weeks that followed were filled with grief, guilt, and anger. My family and I struggled to sleep. The tears never stopped. My husband starting having nose bleeds at times when he was feeling the greatest amount of stress. I began taking sleeping pills. My daughters missed weeks of school; we missed weeks of work. While we appreciated the support pouring in, that support could not take away the pain, suffering,

or our feelings of helplessness. We attended the funerals of two of our three billet sons. I had no idea how to help my girls deal with their grief over losing two boys they considered their brothers, and I still do not know.

We knew Adam for far too short a time. We wanted to know so much more about him; we had planned to watch as he moved on in his hockey career. We love Adam; we are grateful to have known him, if even for a month. We should have had so much more time. Adam's kindness, his dedication to every team he played for, and his immediate willingness to make himself at home, as part of our family, will be with us forever. While we believed that Adam would be playing hockey at a higher level this season, our chances to watch him and to be a part of his life were taken from us on April 6th.

We remain close to Logan Hunter's family, but he was meant to be a part of all of our activities and all the love we have for his family. Our year knowing Logan taught us that mischief and kindness make an entertaining mix. We miss Logan's grin, his laugh, his yelling at the Xbox in the basement, and a million other things that made Logan a part of our family. Logan had an excellent first season with the Broncos. We were confident we would watch Logan's hockey skills continue to grow and that he would be with us for so much more time. The memories of that year with Logan are all we have left after the crash, and they are not nearly enough.

Our family is grateful to have Xavier LaBelle still in our lives, but he has also been taken from us in several ways. We watch and continue to support and cheer for Xavier as he navigates his recovery. However, he was meant to be in Humboldt with us this year. We should be hearing him stomp loudly down the stairs, teasing our girls excessively, and arguing with his billet brothers. All of these things were taken from him and from us. His life has been irrevocably changed, and we grieve what he has lost, as we grieve the lives that were stolen from Logan Hunter and Adam Herold.

The emotional impact of this terrible crash will exist as a part of our lives forever. More than nine months later, Fridays are still hard for Abbie and me. The sixth of every month brings tears, memories, and feelings of disappointment and anger. My daughters are both receiving counselling. Abbie started high school this year and the average stress that this transition would have caused was ten-fold because of her grief. Abbie has nightmares of the night of the accident, of the phone calls and emotions from which I wish I could have protected her. In her sleep, she learns of losing her billet brothers over and over again. Sometimes, she loses Logan, Adam and Xavier again; sometimes she loses the new billets we have welcomed. Abbie is so often tired and angry; she sometimes struggles to relate to her peers. She asks me often, 'will I ever feel like myself again'? Tessa also struggles with relationships at school. Too often, mention of the crash brings Tessa to tears and her classmates cannot understand why she is 'still crying'. Tessa has always found joy in the simplest things, but she retreats from people more often now because she cannot always explain the huge emotions she is feeling. My daughters are now eleven and fourteen; they have been through more grief and more extremely difficult emotional situations than most adults have. I cannot

predict how deeply April 6th will continue to affect the rest of their lives; we can only work to find as many supports as possible.

My husband and I carry our own grief while we try to help our children understand theirs. In addition, we needed to make the difficult decision regarding whether to billet this year or not. While we chose to welcome new billets to our family, our heartache over the ones we lost, the ones who should have been playing this year is never far away. For me, this means that I worry far more than I used to about the boys travelling. I struggle every time they board the bus, and I struggle the most if they travel to Nipawin or on a Friday. I am adamant the boys let me know where they are, and I worry that I overwhelm these new young men because of my grief for what happened to my three billet sons last year. In addition, while I would have always said I was an extroverted person, I find myself avoiding people most of the time. I work quietly in my office; I say no to social events. I am not yet in a state of mind where I feel like I have positive things to say very often. I isolate myself in ways I have never done in the past because I do not want others to feel responsible for my grief.

Finally, I must mention that my husband and I are both from Nipawin; we must pass the corner where sixteen people lost their lives and thirteen more were injured every time we want to go home. The fracture that was created in our lives on April 6th, the extreme loss we felt and still feel will be with us forever. We will spend the rest of our lives passing the temporary or permanent memorials, the tragic consequences of someone else's choice. While we would never have forgotten a single one of the twenty-nine people on the bus that day, passing the site where the Broncos' bus was torn apart and so much was stolen from so many, makes it extremely difficult for our family to make the choice to travel a road that once brought familiar and happy memories.





VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

For court use only
Information Number

Victim's Name Nancy Jefferson Police Service RCMP
Offence Date April 6, 2018 Offence Location HWY 35 and 335 Incident/File Number 18-446743

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See attached

Physical impact

Describe how the offence has affected you physically. For example, think of:

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Economic impact

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- concerns with respect to contact between the offender and members of your family or close friends.

Drawing, poem or letter

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See attached

☐ I would like to present my statement in court.

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this statement is true.

Dated this 19 day of January 2019, at Humboldt. SK

Signature of declarant

Nancy Jefferson

If you completed this statement on behalf of the victim, please indicate the reasons why you did so and the nature of your relationship to the victim

Dated this _____ day of _____ 20____, at _____

Signature of declarant _____

April 6, 2018 will be forever etched in my mind and heart as the beginning of hopefully the most traumatic period of my life. I say hopefully because I never want to go through anything like this ever again. I say period of my life because I don't know when it will end. The intense trauma has passed but there are still days and even moments where I am transported back and the tears and fears resurface.

We have been hockey billet parents for thirteen years and we have had nineteen different young men stay with us for various lengths of time. Each young man leaves a mark on our lives and hopefully we leave a positive mark in theirs. Two amazing young men came to our home in the fall of 2017 who quickly became part of our family. Tyler Smith moved in Oct. 23 and Parker Tobin came to us Nov 29. As billet parents, you try not to have favourites but these two endeared themselves to us in many ways. We spent evenings sitting around the dinner table discussing diverse topics, discussions continued during clean up and even after that as we built relationships and formed more like family bonds than billet bonds. These young men were 19 and 18 years old so there was the potential of one more year with both of them in our home and the potential of a second year with Parker. As a result of this crash and subsequent death of Parker we will never have him with us again. We have lost that relationship and it has left an incredible sense of loss. Our loss is minor by comparison to his family but we had become his second family and so we also grieve the future that we could have been part of.

Also, as a result of the crash and the injuries that Tyler sustained, we will always have the concern of the long-term effects on his physical health and well being. This pales in comparison to the concerns for his mental health as he deals with his own injuries and the loss of his friends. We will always be watchful of his anxiety levels even when he doesn't live with us. It became very obvious to us when he returned to live with us in October and November and eventually returned home that his struggles will be life long and because of our relationship with him as his billet family we will share in that struggle.

My husband and I have helped with the Hockey Ministries Chapel program for the Broncos for the past few years so we had relationships with almost every player on the team to varying degrees. Darcy Haugan was our friend. Brody Hinz sat beside us at every home game doing stats. Dayna Brons was the daughter of my friend and co-worker. Relationships are forged with billet families and player families. We are surrounded by grieving people, whom we try to support and console while dealing with our own grief. This is trauma that doesn't go away and it is now part of our day to day life and will be for years to come, likely forever.

Our family lived in Swift Current, SK and billeted hockey players there. I knew that the bus was not necessarily a safe place for the boys as a result of an accident more than thirty years ago which involved another group of Broncos. I thought about that every time they left the house in bad weather and every time they were not back at the expected time. The events, timing and decisions of April 6, 2018 have increased that anxiety level even when I do not have a player on the bus! I will never meet a semi on the road or see one at a corner that does not remind me of April 6 and the devastation that resulted. Every time I see a bus it crosses my mind and that happens often since I work at a school. My impact statement is not one of physical or financial impact but it is one of a loss of peace of mind and heightened awareness of how precious life is and heightened anxiety for safety and well being for myself, for those I care deeply about, and for those who are travelling that I have no other relationship with other than buses.